Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 15 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 16 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 14 Feb 2024 at 14:58

Confidence: High for mild and occasionally unsettled, but lowering for the timing detail of worst of the weather.

Headline for Thursday 15 Feb 2024: Overcast with extensive hill fog, periods of occasionally heavy rain. Fresh to strong summit winds. Freezing level above all summits.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 15 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Drizzle
Precipitation probability							
90%	80%	90%	80%	90%	80%	70%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 15 Feb 2024

Weather: A dull overcast day with periods of rain that turn heavy at times, particularly during the early hours and for a time in the afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10%

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases extensive from 450m, with east seeing best chance of seeing the limited cloud breaks.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 15 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	32/39 S	31/38 S	34/41 S	35/43 S	35/44 SW	29/36 S	18/23 SW	14/17 SW	14/18 SW
600	25/34 S	26/36 S	26/36 S	26/35 S	29/39 SW	23/31 S	14/19 SW	9/12 SW	10/13 SW
300	6/22 S	7/24 S	7/24 S	9/28 S	12/30 S	9/24 S	5/16 SW	3/12 SW	3/12 SW
Valley	7/23 S	7/23 S	10/25 S	10/27 S	12/27 S	10/22 SW	5/12 SW	2/8 SW	3/8 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	6/0	6/1	6/1	7/1	7/1	7/1	6/1	5/1	5/1
600	7/2	7/3	8/3	8/3	8/4	8/4	7/4	6/4	6/3
300	8/6	8/7	9/7	9/7	9/6	9/7	8/7	8/7	8/7
Valley	9/8	10/9	10/8	10/8	10/8	10/8	9/8	8/8	8/7
Freezing Level*	2000m	2200m	2300m	2400m	2300m	2300m	2100m	1800m	1700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Difficult conditions for Thursday with rain and extensive hill fog.

Forecast for Friday 16 Feb 2024

Weather: Cloudy start with frequent showers, these dwindling towards noon. Clearing to sunshine and isolated light showers for the afternoon.

Maximum wind: West to southwest beginning mean 20mph with gusts reaching 30mph, gradually easing through the rest of the day.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20% becoming 70% during the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases quite extensive from 600m at first, before lifting and breaking for the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7 Celsius increasing 12 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius
Freezing level: Above summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 14 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:45 Full report: There has been a substantial thaw over the past 24 hours which is continuing as it was plus 5 degrees C and drizzling on the summit around midday. The majority of the Lakeland fells up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow. That which remains lies above 700m in sheltered spots and hollows and especially above 850m on steep north and east facing aspects. Where undisturbed, this fresh snow, which has fallen over the past few days, was wet, very soft and thawing. On popular routes, however, there were patches of compacted snow and ice, the latter occasionally “imitating” slush, making conditions slippery and treacherous. There are also patches of old, hard snow beneath the fresh snow although since they are mainly above 900m on steep north and especially east facing aspects they represent little hazard to walkers. Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was just below zero around midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Anyone attempting steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as the Helvellyn Edges, are recommended to carry an ice axe and crampons or microspikes in case ice is encountered or the wet snow refreezes. That said, Striding Edge can now almost be climbed without setting foot on snow – if you exit to the south of the normal route. Conversely, there is more snow in general, including some which is unavoidable, on Swirral Edge. Although mostly soft and wet there were, again, patches of harder snow and ice making microspikes and an ice axe certainly useful here today. Visibility in the cloud was down to around 30m at times so a map and compass together with the ability to use them are also essential. Temperature: plus 5.1 C, Maximum wind speed 19.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 0.4 C, Average wind speed: 13.8 mph

Issued at: 1458 on Wed 14 Feb 2024

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